

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-20 (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 20~~ Claim 37, further comprising:
receiving the audio formatted transmission at the forwarding address.

22-36 (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) A method of forwarding a facsimile transmission in a telecommunications system, comprising:

designating a forwarding address for the facsimile transmission;
receiving the facsimile transmission directed to a subscriber address;
routing the facsimile transmission to a central forwarding repository;
at the central forwarding repository, converting only an address header of the facsimile transmission to an audio formatted transmission;
retaining a body portion of the facsimile transmission as an image formatted transmission;
saving the audio formatted transmission at the central forwarding repository;
routing only the audio formatted address header to the forwarding address;
and
retaining the image formatted body portion of the facsimile transmission at the central forwarding repository.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 37, further comprising:
retrieving the audio formatted transmission from the central forwarding repository.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 38, further comprising prior to retrieving the audio formatted transmission from the central forwarding repository, receiving a personal identification number for authenticating a retrieving party.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 37, wherein designating the forwarding address includes designating a forwarding telephone directory number for receiving the audio formatted message.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 37, further comprising forwarding the audio-formatted transmission to a second forwarding address.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 41, wherein the second forwarding address comprises a facsimile receiving device.